



The Grape of the South

By Ledford Trimmings

South Carolina wineries put the Muscadine front and center.



Take your taste buds on a side trip during your next visit to South Carolina, and explore some of the state's unique wineries. No matter which vineyard you visit, chances are they will feature at least a few varieties created from the "South's Own Grape" — the Muscadine.

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Irvin-House Vineyards

As Charleston's only domestic winery and vineyard, Jim and Ann Irvin of Irvin-House Vineyards take pride in growing their own grapes, harvesting them and bottling the wines on their beautiful 48-acre property on Wadmalaw Island. As at most South Carolina wineries, the Irvins have mastered the art of crafting several palette-pleasing delights incorporating the fragrant Muscadine. The Irvin-House's Mullet Hall Red and Palmetto wines are shining examples of the lively, complex tastes that can be coaxed from this flavorful fruit.



As you'll discover, a romantic walk around the estate is as rewarding as the unique wines you'll sample on your day trip. Grandiose Live Oaks dot the landscape providing a perfect backdrop for the rows of winding fruit vines that climb their way toward the sky.

La Belle Amie Vineyard

Located in North Myrtle Beach, La Belle Amie Vineyard is one of the largest wineries in South Carolina offering a vast selection of reds and whites, with everything from traditional Southern Muscadine recipes to exclusive European imports that are only available through La Belle Amie.



One of La Belle Amie's featured wines is Bella's Blush, aka "Goddess," a smooth Southern Muscadine blush wine with a silky sweet finish. Bella's Blush is named after none other than Bella, La Belle Amie's resident collie mascot and vineyard supervisor.

Don't worry if you're not a true connoisseur of fine wines, La Belle Amie's philosophy is simple — "Wine should be enjoyed. So anything goes!" La Belle Amie offers a tasting room in their main building where you can go through the five basic steps of wine tasting and get a good feel for a variety of styles and vintages.

These are just a couple of the vineyards you'll find across the state. For a complete list of South Carolina wineries, visit catchwine.com/wineries/south_carolina.

Find Out More in PLACES...

Irvin-House Vineyards, page 93
La Belle Amie Vineyard, page 97

